THE Lions' Pride
OF SAINT LEO UNIVERSITY

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"Today, we are all hokies."

Virginia Tech massacre leaves colleges across the country struggling to understand.

BY JENNIFER REILLY
Lions' Pride Editor

On Monday, April 16, 33 college students were shot and killed at Virginia Tech University in Blackwell, Virginia. Two students were gunned down around 7:15 a.m. in West Ambler Johnston Hall, a dormitory that houses 895 students. More than two hours later, 30 individuals were shot in a classroom building called Norris Hall. The shooter then turned the gun on himself, taking his own life.

Fear resonated the 2,600-acre campus as the gun shots stole the lives of students much like those who attend Saint Leo University. Students huddled in classrooms, grasped their cell phones tight, and attempted to keep a connection to the outside world

As events unraveled, the authorities and the media were able to identify the shooter as Seung-Hui Cho, a 23-year-old English major who was often withdrawn from his peers.

"Schools should be places of safety, sanctuary, and learning," President George W. Bush said in reaction to the violence. "When that sanctuary is violated, the impact is felt in every American classroom in every American community."

As the country mourns and students mend their hearts and minds to accept the horrific events, Virginia Tech sends a clear message through professor and author, Nikki Giovanni.

Photograph by Kristin Brittain

Students gathered at a vigil for Virginia Tech. More than 100 SLU community members showed their respect the evening after the shootings.

"We will continue to invent the future through our blood and tears and through all our sadness."

Through their time of sadness, universities in the United States will support the Virginia Tech Hokies and try to gain a better understanding of school violence, in the hopes it doesn't happen again.

However, Saint Leo University is taking steps to ensure that in the case of an emergency, there is a community structure strong enough to support the situation.

"As a result of this incident, colleges

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Baccalaureate mass recognizes graduates

BY JOSHUA M. SMITH
Lions' Pride Online Editor

Know any graduating seniors who lost their commencement tickets? Or maybe they just have so many friends and family coming to see them they ran out. Either way, the Baccalaureate Mass may be a nice alternative for friends and family of graduates who will not be able to attend the commencement ceremony itself.

The Baccalaureate Mass for Saint Leo's 2007 graduates will take place on Saturday, May 5, from 8:30 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. in the Marion Bowman Activity Center. There is no limit on the number of guests who can attend, so graduates who find they do not have enough commencement tickets for their visitors can still be seen by their loved ones in their cap and gown in an official setting.

After the mass, there will be refreshments available until 11:30 a.m. when the commencement exercise begins.

As it was last year, this year's commencement ceremonies will be simulcast on the Internet for the benefit of those who do not have tickets to attend the event. The streaming video will be hosted from http://iteach.saintleo.edu. To view the web cast, users will need a broadband internet connection such as a DSL or cable modem connection and Windows Media Player. The event will be shown live.

However, only the commencement exercise itself will be simulcast on the web; the Baccalaureate Mass will not.

Coordinating the commencement events has been a difficult and challenging experience for the Saint Leo University registrar's office. As the University grows, the graduating class gets larger each year, creating new challenges for the staff. Though the office attempted to address problems and concerns brought up by students and parents, the reality of the limited number of commencement tickets available sometimes led to disappointment.

Three hundred twenty-nine students will be marching in the early commencement exercise, which is reserved for campus, evening and weekend, and continuing education students. Of those, seven students are from off-campus continuing education centers. The afternoon ceremony, which starts at 5 p.m., is

Courtesy of Public Relations

Students from last year's Baccalaurate Mass sing to celebrate the completetion of their degrees.

for Center of Online Learning (COL) and graduate students. Three hundred seventy-seven students will march in the late ceremony. Two hundred thirteen COL students are traveling from other parts of the country to attend the afternoon ceremony on campus.

Two of Saint Leo's students, Chris Daniels and William Duclo, died during the 2006-2007 school year. Daniels had earned a master's of science in criminal justice after the fall 2006 semester and was slated to walk in the afternoon commencement exercise prior to his death. Duclo was expected to complete a bachelor's in criminal justice during the spring 2007 semester. Both will be honored as part of the commencement day activities.

Opinions

EDITORIAL

Four-year degree strikes good balance

BY JOSHUA M. SMITH
Lions' Pride Online Editor

Remember back in high school when your advisor would ask you what you want to do with the rest of your life? Do you remember thinking, "The hell if I know?"

For some people, they may in fact have known exactly what they wanted to do with the rest of their lives at fifteen years old. For most of us, though, we aren't quite ready to map out the rest of our lives before we can even drive a car.

Some people believe that college students really ought to get a master's or even a doctorate degree in order to ensure being able to get a job after graduating. While there is no denying that workers with such degrees are paid more, money simply isn't everything.

Imagine waking up one morning when you are 28 years old. You took the grown-ups' advice and struggled your way through grad school. You've been working in the real world for four years, and you make plenty of money. The only problem is you don't like what you are doing. Having set the course of your life before actually experiencing life, you find the choices that seemed right ten years earlier were in fact naïve and ill-conceived. Suddenly, you are looking at thirty having wasted the best years of your life pursuing a degree you didn't want, in a field you can no longer stand, amassing debt you are still paying down. I don't know about you, but I wouldn't want that to be me.

That's one of the reasons why a bachelor's degree makes more sense than a master's. It's not all about money. It may seem like money is the solution to every problem while you're a kid struggling for it. However, all the money in the world cannot make up for having to get up every day to do a job that is unfulfilling.

Earning a bachelor's degree leaves a graduate more than qualified for most jobs on the market, yet does not require the sacrifice of another two years of your early twenties. Heading into the job market at 22 leaves you with plenty of time to find out whether the career of your childhood dreams is actually what you wanted to do.

Furthermore, grad school costs money, lots more money. For those students who are only able to attend college by taking out student loans, another two years of tuition debt may take twice as long to pay off when the loans come due. I can't think of many things more depressing than the monkey of future loan payments and interest on your back as you attend college.

And, after 17 years straight of going to school, who really looks forward to another two years? Can't a twenty-something get a break?

Yes, he can. And for many people, a break is what they really need.

When I was eighteen, I had something of a quarter-life crisis. I'd just graduated from high school and suddenly realized I was sick to death of school. I was now no longer a minor. I felt ready to enter the real world for a while, to sample life.

Two weeks later, my crisis had passed, and I ultimately decided to go on to college right away without taking any time off. I am glad now I made that decision. However, I was still sick of school and performed below my ability. I studied computer science, figuring that since I liked video games, I'd like working with computers.

I graduated with a two-year degree and decided I'd had enough. I went to work in my chosen field and made very good money for my age. However, by the time I was in my late twenties, I realized

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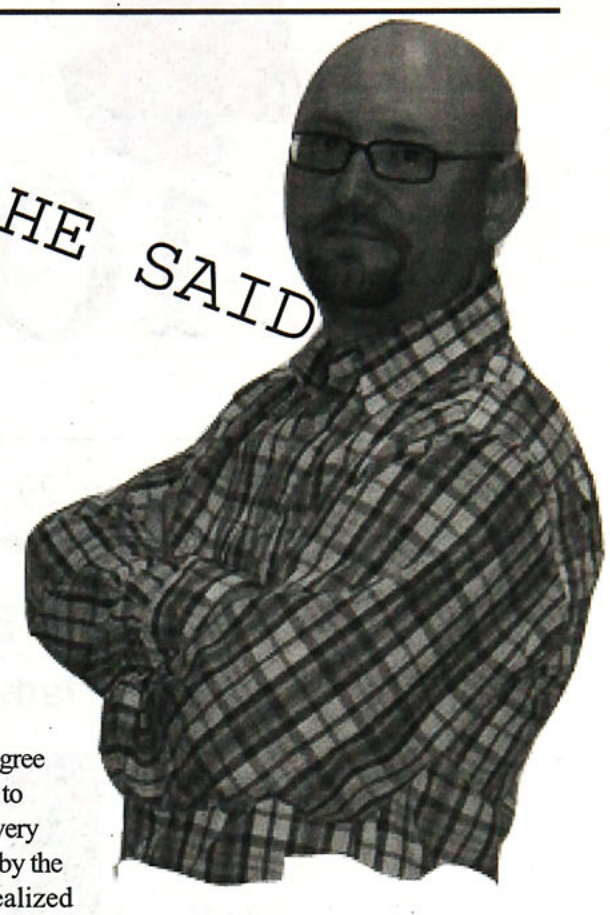

Be smart and *master* your life

BY KATIE GAISER
Lions' Pride Staff Writer

For many years, attending college was anything but a priority to the average young adult in American society. College was for the wealthy, the insistent, and the men coming home from war. As time went gone on and the economy grew, college became more and more necessary in order to have the means to support a family and leave a decent life. Many people started going for an associate's degree, and then a bachelor's degree in their chosen field. Nowadays, Americans are going above and beyond the average degree, striving for more. But is all the extra time, money, and stress worth going farther then the average degree?

I say, absolutely. A bachelor's degree in this day and age isn't what is used to be. Forty years ago, employers bowed down and kissed the feet of those with a standard college education. Now, times are changing and companies are demanding more. No longer will a bachelor's degree impress anyone in a position of power. How could it, when there are more qualified people surfacing everyday? It's time to realize the benefits of a master's degree outweigh ten-to-one the benefits of anything less.

The job market has been steadily evolving into a fast paced, unforgiving monster only interested in the best of the best. Competition is fierce, and quality, high paying jobs are scarcely awarded to anyone who does not fall into this category. Some employers won't even breathe in the direction of those with anything less than a master's degree.

With today's economy being so flaky, most companies are looking for the experts who can confidently create success for themselves and the big guys upstairs. This in itself is enough motivation to get a better degree. To climb high and be great requires a lot of hard work and effort. In order to get the best job, Americans need the best degrees. The greatest rewards emerge from the hardest work.

Part of these rewards is the salary. According to worldwidelearn.com, Americans with master's degrees make more than $11,000 more than those with a bachelor's. Those going as far as doctorate degrees make three times this amount. The proof is there. Getting a better degree means getting a better job, and making a lot more money. Let's face it; one can't do much if he doesn't have the means. Say good bye to that fancy car, the big house and a dozen kids, and the dream vacations if there's no way to pay for them. Americans have big dreams and with those dreams come big prices. The facts don't lie. In today's society, getting the best job means having the best degree.

These days, a master's degree is not only recommended but required. Applicants are finding the demand for more experienced employees. Companies are getting serious and searching for the best the country has to offer. Getting this degree can make or break a person's future. A master's degree isn't even all that terrible to gain. It usually requires one or two more years of graduate school for completion. Once this is completed, students have substantially increased their likelihood of getting hired above others who didn't attend graduate school.

As seniors prepare for their upcoming graduation ceremony, they can only wonder what the future will bring. Will those sticking with mere bachelor's degrees really get as far as they hoped? Or will they one day be left in the dust by the students who bit the bullet and moved on to graduate school in the hopes for something more? While it's hard to predict each individual's situation, more likely than not those going for master's degrees will find much more success than those who are not. These people will not only be professionally successful but also find success in making their lives rich, and their dreams come true.

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The famous professor

BY BRENDAN RILEY
A Special to The Lions' Pride

Saint Leo University has been privileged to have the famous professor, Dr. Charles Arnade, teach his widely acclaimed and controversial class, Global Human Rights, on campus. The longest serving professor in the university system of Florida, at 54 years and counting, Arnade has a doctorate from the University of Michigan, with his graduate overseas research sponsored by the Woodrow Wilson School of Princeton University, and has taught on every continent except Antarctica and is a survivor of the Japanese Rape of Nanking, China at the onset of WWII. He is the distinguished professor emeritus of international studies at the University of South Florida, and he is a member of Phi Beta Kappa, the United States' first and most prestigious honor society. A leading authority on the history of Bolivia, where he grew up and studied, he is fluent in Spanish as well as Quechua, the indigenous language of the Incan empire. Moreover, Arnade is a scholar of Florida history: as a graduate student, he was one of only a few who could decipher early records of the Spanish empire and published previously unknown information about Spanish Florida.

William G. Dayton, a local historian and attorney, gave a glimpse of what makes Arnade such an important figure.

"Dr. Arnade is significant in more fields than one. Anything published in the last 30 or 40 years dealing with Florida's first Spanish period either footnotes him or was written by him, since he wrote more than anyone else on the subject. A strong believer in Jefferson's statement that 'The price of liberty is eternal vigilance' (a favorite quote), he has been very active in causes he believes in, including the civil rights movement, and often, his interests are ahead of their time. He and his family have been active in a wide variety of civil endeavors in Pasco County. He helped organize the local NAACP as well as the Pasco Historical Society. He serves on the Pasco County Historical Preservation Board and, for many years, was active with the Selective Service as a member of the local draft board. He was secretary to the Confederate Round Table, an historical discussion group active in East Pasco County in the 1950s and '60s. He is also active in the Florida Historical Society and other learned groups. If he becomes involved with something, he does so enthusiastically."

Why is Arnade's Global Human Rights Class so controversial? First, Arnade uses no textbook, but, rather, centers his lessons around current events, which he presents to his class via the internet during class or from the litany of newspapers he peruses daily: *The New York Times, The Financial Times, Times Literary Supplement, The Washington Post,* Costa Rica's *Tico Times, Buenes Aires Herald, Japan Times, Sydney Morning Herald,* and the *Wall Street Journal*. He has drawn recent attention from Duke University, among other universities, and has been invited to teach his Global Human Rights class on their respective campuses. This class is also controversial for its volatile questions and, in turn, exposure of student's lack of knowledge in fundamental questions on geography, history, and politics. Clad in the eclectic colors and the exotic designs on his many shirts from various and obscure corners of the world, including his signature South American guayabera, and slapping his palms on the desk, Arnade questions, "Who knows the difference between the Balkans and the Baltics?" and "What does democracy mean?" Then, students begin to add fragments of a definition: "the right to vote," one of the students who is originally from Haiti spurts out. With his direct questioning of the class, Arnade always culminates with what seems to be the most important question he considers in his class, "Are there human rights without democracy?" When you put a college class together made up of a meringue of backgrounds, including Haitian, Swedish, Mexican, British, American, Christian, Muslim and so forth, the answers differ widely and periodically erupt into heated classroom debates over cultural issues, such as the role women play in diverging cultures from Iran to America and whether certain cultures should be allowed to carry out their traditional practices, such as eating canines, in America

For this reason, Arnade's classes are among the most efficacious. He uses the most up-to-date information and technology available and, ironically, he is usually one of, if not the oldest professors on campus. Incoming professors, especially those in the international affairs, politics, and history departments, should incorporate at least some of Arnade's methods by, most importantly, setting aside the class text book, which Arnade tends to describe as the "crutch" or "baby pacifier," and basing lectures and assignments on current events reported in *The New York Times* and other daily and weekly news publications with widely different editorial viewpoints, as well as commentaries in scholarly journals. In essence, the success of Arnade's scholastic experiment shows us, as students and teachers, that the liberal education available in what Arnade describes as "America's vibrant democracy" can use the instruction of contemporaneous news to ignite students with an intellectual interest in what is occurring around them.

Animals on campus...why not?

BY JESSICA GRUBB
Lions' Pride Staff Writers

Some full-time students at Saint Leo University try to bring some of the comforts of home with them to eliminate the emptiness of dorm life. Many people bring stuffed toys, pillows, blankets, and pictures, but what about those furry friends that comfort students the most at home?

At Saint Leo and most college campuses, these attributes of a loving home are not welcome on campus. However, directors and full- time employees who live on campus are permitted to have pets.

According to Todd Justensen, director of residence life, this is to institute a more home-like living facility for these people. Why aren't students allowed to create the same home atmosphere?

However, in past years some students have violated policy and had animals such as dogs and cats in dorms. It was recognized that these animals were around when fleas began to lay eggs and the building and dorm had to be exterminated. At a cost of about $2600, this isn't a risk SLU is willing to take ever again. Now, when an animal is found, actions have to be taken seriously, and right away, before a problem arises.

There are still about 4 animals reported in dorms per semester. When found, the students usually have 24-48 hours to get rid of the animal. If found a second time, the students could receive points, ranging from 2-4 for not respecting campus policy. Students face charges of a cleaning fee for the room. If found a third time, the animal will be confiscated and brought to a local shelter or adoption center. An animal can never be mistreated or harmed in any way by any member of the Saint Leo staff.

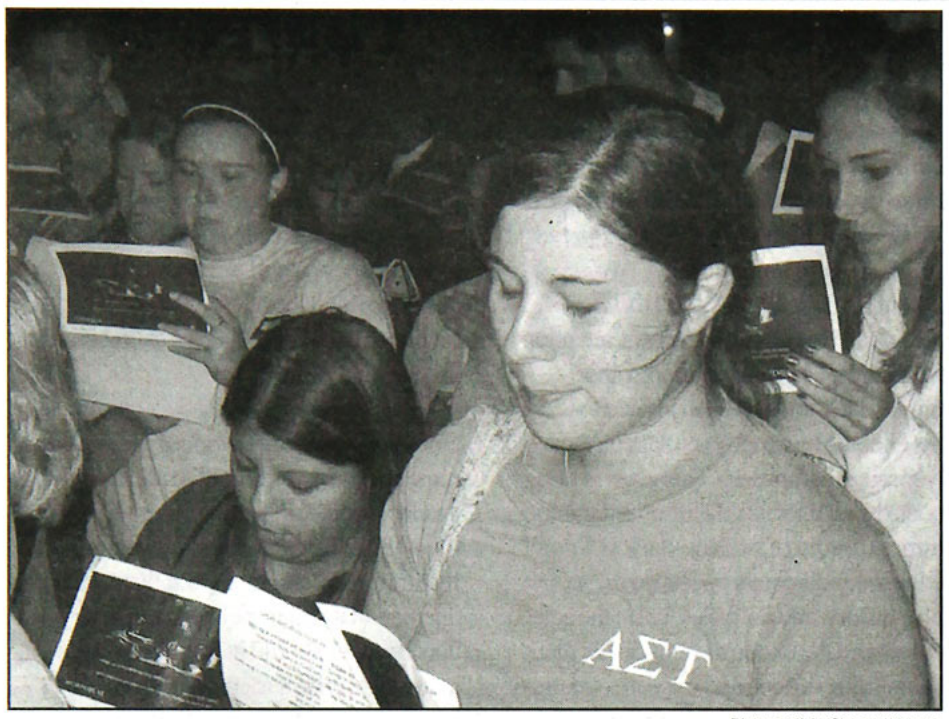
"I would never hurt an animal or do anything inhumane. The animal would simply be brought to a shelter in which a good home would be looked for," said Justensen.

According to residence life, there is no way an animal is allowed to live in student dorms unless it lives in water and in less than a 20 gallon tank. No fee or charge is allowed to be paid to substitute this rule for any student.

However, students protest.

"Animals are fun and feisty, we should be allowed to have any animal we want," said Taylor Gildard, a freshman.

Three faculty members of the criminal justice department display their qualification cards after requalifiying with their handguns under a new federal statute authorizing retired law enforcement officers to be armed and carry concealed weapons nationwide. The Law Enforcement Safety Act of 2004 is designed to enable retired law enforcement officers to protect themselves from threats that may arise from their law enforcement employment. The statute has strict criteria as to who qualifies as a law enforcement officer, and mandates annual pistol qualification pursuant to state law enforcement standards. Pictured here are (L-R) CJ faculty members Peter Wubbenhorst, Jack Jordan (adjunct professor and chief deputy, Sumter County Sheriff's Office, sponsor of the event), Barry Glover, and Leonard Territo.



Photograph by Simone Williams

Erica Gardner and Maya Dominguez take part in the Virginia Tech vigil.

VIGIL CON'T

and universities will have an opportunity to reflect on their own crisis communication plans," said Jeffrey Baylor, the assistant vice president for student services.

On Tuesday, April 17, students, faculty, staff, and parents received email and voicemail messages through the Connect-Ed Communication Center. The email linked to an automatic voice message from Dr. Ed Dadez, the vice president for Continuing Education and Student Services. Dadez urged students to assist the campus community in maintaining the goal of ensuring safety. The new technological service will send voicemail and email to the campus community in case of natural or manmade disaster, facilities issues, campus crimes and assaults, fires, and terrorists' attacks. Those who did not receive the notification, should update their personal information on E-Lion.

Students at Virginia Tech were notified of the campus shootings after the second incident took place. Students turned to cell phones, instant messaging, and the popular social networking site ,Facebook, in order to notify their parents and friends of their well-being.

Katie Olsen, a sophomore at Virginia Tech, created the "I'm OK at VT" Facebook group as a quick way to communicate with friends. VT students joined the group so they could see who was safe following the shootings. Messages were posted on the group message board asking about individual student's safety.

As students across the country noticed the use of Facebook as a way to reach Virginia Tech, groups of support were formed and prayers were offered to those effected. Many students created profile pictures of the Virginia Tech Hokie with their own school's mascot posted beneath it, the title reading, "Today we are all Hokies."

Amanda Davis, a senior sociology major, created a profile picture with the Saint Leo logo and the Hokie as a sign of support.

"In situations like this, Facebook was one of the best tools out there because they made the I'm OK VT group, and it brought relief to people who had a lot of friends and family on the campus," said Davis, whose best friend attends Virginia Tech. "I wanted to show them I loved them," she said of her creation of the profile picture.

Several students of Saint Leo soon changed their profile picture to unify the Saint Leo community and show support for the Hokies.

"That night, my roommates and I sat up in the living room watching TV. We slept there because we were scared," said Davis.

Many students felt grief and fear as they learned more about the shocking event.

"I was looking at the pictures of those lost their lives, and I started crying because they were so close to my age," said junior elementary education major Patricia DiGuiseppe.

Lawson Jolly, a licensed mental health counselor and director of counseling ad career services, offers students counseling services if they are feeling anxious or overwhelmed.

"When bad things happen, people get a distorted view of the world, which causes more anxiety," said Jolly. "I believe we should accentuate the truths we already know. Be kind to everyone, help those in need, and tell authorities when you have concerns."

Jolly offered the following warning signs that may indicate violent behavior: feelings of anger or withdrawal, isolation, weak support systems, access to a weapon or weapons, discussion of violence, or acts of violence. In all the following situations, students should consider telling an authority on campus.

"The most important thing is to watch out for each other. Remember what your parents told you. If something or someone makes you uncomfortable, get away from the person and report it to someone. The Student Services and Campus Safety professional staff will have it checked out as quickly as possible. If you see someone who you don't think belongs here, let us know. Don't prop doors and keep them locked," said Dadez

The massive amount of information and emotion will take time to understand. In the meantime, some students and faculty members are taking the time to reflect on what the Saint Leo community can do as individuals to create safer communities for learning.

"Something good that has happened from all of this is that there is a heightened sense of awareness of the needs of all human beings, especially students," said Jolly. "Professors, students, and coaches are all expressing more sensitivity to the behaviors and needs of others."

THE DOOM OF MEN

Their world was right waking after night, so they all just started their day.

But they shortly were told that a gunman cold had killed a campus R.A.

"Wow," they said as they went ahead and struck down their daily path.

Little they knew that they themselves too would be part of the aftermath.

He came in a vest covering his chest with bullets and ammo and hate.

He stalked the floors and locked the doors and finally accepted his fate.

He lined them all against the wall; they hoped they'd be alright.

But the shooting began, and so they ran in terror and panic and fright.

But it was too late, he'd barred the gate, and the students couldn't get out.

And when he was done, he reloaded his gun and continued along his route.

The others now knew they had but a few moments to get in the clear,

But the doors were locked, the guns were cocked, and the killer was drawing near.

A professor quite brave attempted to save the students he taught that day.

The kids broke their toes jumping out the windows while he stood in the killer's way.

In the end he was shot, just one of a lot, but somehow in his loss,

He reminded us of God's enduring love when His Son was nailed to the cross.

When the killer was done, rather than run, he joined the dying and slain.

When the tally was read, 33 were dead, and the world was left to its pain.

We all want to feel that safety is real and that this couldn't happen again,

But by now we can see that unfortunately there's no stopping unhinged men.

Of course we'll try to find out why and avoid a repeat of the past,

But someday we will see more young blood spill and again we'll sit 'round and ask.

'Til then our plan will be "do what we can," and maybe we'll stop the next death,

But it would be naïve to think as we grieve that evil will end with hot breath.

If there is a way to save that day of future violence and fear,

It will entail that we do not fail to remember what's happening here.

Time it will take for our leaders to make us feel secure in our daily life.

And while we wait and contemplate, I hope we find wisdom in strife.

The lesson I take from this awful mistake is to take things for granted no more.

I know from the past that life does not last, and that I cannot ignore.

As we bury the dead, as tributes are read, as the world gets back on its feet,

Remember that we have a duty to see their memories remembered complete.

Honor that day, use it as a way to heal this time of regret;

For it is the doom of men, both now and again, that they so eas'ly forget.

BY JOSHUA M. SMITH

4-YEAR CON'T

that I'd advanced as high as I could go in my career as a computer tech; if I wanted to continue moving up, I'd have to become a manager. Furthermore, I was working with mainframes, the dinosaurs of the computer world. What I mean by that is they are rapidly becoming extinct.

Don't get me wrong, I didn't regret anything. On the contrary, I was thankful I chose a lower degree, got into the work force, and spent my twenties quite comfortably money-wise. However, I realized computer science was no longer what I wanted to do with my life. Due to the financial freedom my job and my lack of student loans afforded me, I was able to return to school for a new degree in a new field. And when I returned to school, I began performing to the best of my ability.

That is why, in my view, a bachelor's degree is a sufficient goal for young college students. You've all got your entire lives ahead of you. When I look around campus, I see young people who are desperate to experience life and are passionate about living it. I see people who are struggling to balance school work, which they've been doing for more than twelve years, with meeting people, going places, doing things, and living life.

For those students who truly know what they want to do for the rest of their lives and are working hard at Saint Leo to make it happen, I'm happy for you. For everyone else, I just hope you don't wake up someday in the future and wonder where the best years of your life went. In the words of Ferris Bueller: Life moves pretty fast. If you don't stop to look around once and a while, you might miss it.

You don't even know: A look at real Greeks

BY NIKII BROWN
Lions' Pride Assistant Editor

T-shirt club, "beat- a-bother," buying your friends - these are some of the terms referred to when fraternities and sororities are brought up.

For members of some Greek organizations, they know otherwise. The reality is hazing and "t-shirt clubs" do exist in Greek life, but not for all organizations. What really happens inside Greek organizations? What is this ritual? What's up with all the secrets? Why are they so exclusive?

Greek organizations on Saint Leo campus have to abide by a guideline of activities to do each semester. There are a certain amount of socials, risk management programs, sisterhood and brotherhood events, and other educational programs Greeks must put on.

For national organizations, it is essential to complete these events to stay in good standing within the national office. The events completed are not compared to the other three or four organizations on campus, but by the other 40 chapters of that particular organization on other campuses.

Parties are a part of Greek life, but so are academics. The stereotypical drunk frat guy, or promiscuous sorority girl may appear in the chapters students see, but they do not represent all members or all Greeks. There is a percentage of Greeks who barely, if ever, drink.

So what really goes on inside these Greek organizations? An answer that might be frequent is from the outside in they will never understand, and from the inside out you can never explain. Where does that leave people who want a solid answer? Probably confused.

People who join Greek organizations become part of something other people may never experience or understand. Every Greek organization is different and every individual has a different experience. So when it comes down to what goes on in Greek life, it's a combination of things.

Sweat, tears, love, anger, power, equality, fights, marriages, rivalries - it all is a part of Greek life. There's good with the bad, and some organizations are more power, sweat, and tears, than love, sweat, and equality.

Photographed by Shelley Peterson
Katy Barnosky throwing jello filled ballons to sister Becka King.

Ritual may mean different things to different people, but for the most part it is about values. Each Greek organization holds different values important, and though some may be the same, they each have their own special meaning.

For the women of Alpha Sigma Tau, being active, self-reliant, and trustworthy are important to them. Ritual is something that can only be shared with those who are part of the organization, and the rituals reflect the values the men and women of Greek life stand behind.

For many organizations ritual is their foundation. It determines how they operate, how they learn, and how they become associated with their particular organization. It may also determine if Greek life or specific organizations are for them.

Of course, some organizations may have rituals that don't represent Greek life well. That is where the negative image develops from.

Sigma Sigma Sigma sorority has a motto, "Faithful unto death," that shows how members stay dedicated to their organization and keeping its values alive. Other organizations may have similar ideals, but believe being faithful means doing what it takes to prove yourself to the organization.

"They come together and stay close because they share values, morals, and beliefs that connect them through their letters," sophomore Stefanie Osborne said.

The values that represent the organization may be what makes Greek life exclusive.

"That feeling of knowing that you have a secret, something that no one can take away from you and your best friend," Osborne said, " that's what the secrets are about. They bond brothers and sisters."

Does Greek life think they are better than those who aren't Greeks? It's a question open to interpretation. The values and rituals that are important to them may not be for everyone; however, does that make them better? No. Does it make them exclusive? Perhaps.

"In a fraternity you are chosen because of your character and personal worth," senior Joseph Peplinski said.

Exclusivity can prove to be both a positive and a negative. One thing about Greek life some may not know is that once you graduate college or transfer schools, it does not end. There is no graduation from sororities or fraternities; there is only a progression into another stage.

"In sports teams, once the season is done or the college years are up, they go their separate ways, but a Greek bond is something that lasts a lifetime," Peplinski said.

All the aspects of Greek life come together - ritual to set the foundation and exclusivity to protect the rituals. This adds up to the purpose for the "pledging" or new member process.

"It's an organization that is based on trust and loyalty, and to be able to trust each other, we have to understand their qualities," Peplinski and brother Benjamin Dawes agree.

At the end of the process members decide if they believe the new members will uphold their values, keep their rituals secret and sacred, and have the education about what the organization was founded on.

This "pledging" is kind of like a dating process. At a certain point someone must make a decision if these people fit into the family. At that moment, dating can lead to marriage. Pledging leads to initiation and the member is bonded to that group for life.

Thefts on campus: What to do?

BY JESSICA GRUBB & BRITTANY GRANERO
Lions' Pride Staff Writers

In recent months, many campus crimes have been acknowledged. With thefts and breaking and entering being the most common, its easy to wonder what is security doing to help prevent such events? Director of campus safety, Jerome Hilton, has offered some answers.

According to campus safety, between the months of January and March approximately 43 thefts were reported. In 2003-2005, no robberies were reported and only 21 breaking and entering incidents were on record. This information can be found on page 4 in *Your Right to Know Handbook*.

Campus Safety is trying to have more security around the campus on busier days. Monday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday security has three shifts of patrol cars from 7:30 a.m.- 4:00 p.m., 3:30 p.m. – 12:00 a.m., and 7:30 p.m.- 4:30 a.m. On every other day of the week only the first two shifts take place.

Many students who do report crimes, such as thefts, also report one very important fact. Their doors were unlocked. Hilton stressed the importance of locking dormitory doors.

Because thefts can be committed by students and non-students of Saint Leo University, it is important to report thefts right away. Saint Leo doesn't offer insurance for this type of event so students should always have their own insurance, known as renter's insurance, through a parent or guardian. Also, be aware this is a college campus and things do get stolen.

"There were several burglaries and several alcohol poisoning incidents at Marmion and Snyder last year, and a few this year in which video game systems have been stolen, and the school should include these details for their incoming students in the fall," said Dustin Palmer.

Other than thefts, it is also important to know what to do in case of other emergencies. Some reports include students walking into their dorm rooms and an unknown person was in their room. Security advises that if this happens, students should find a secure place with other students or employees and call security. If a student is not in a dorm and suspects something, or feels threatened by someone, blue emergency buttons are located all over campus to connect him or her with a dispatcher for protection until a security member can respond to the scene.

Many people may be surprised that there is not much of a difference between the way public and private universities handle situations. However, campuses that have their own personal police on staff have arresting powers, which at Saint Leo University does not.

"I'm not here to arrest anyone. I'm here to help the students," said Hilton. Security on this campus thinks it more important to help people rather then trying to punish them.

It is important to remember that the worst damages reported were stolen items and busted doors, which can always be replaced. A lot of the stolen items were recovered. Lost and found is a good place to check. And as a reminder, always lock doors, don't travel a long distances alone, and try to avoid dangerous situations.

Congratulations Saint Leo University Class of 2007

NICOLE BROWN
CHERYL COLMAN
SANDRA DUNAWAY
THERESA FLETCHER
CYNTHIA HENDRY
MICHELLE JUSTINIANO
DEBRA LABOUEF
CHARLOTTE LAPORTE
THOMAS MACKIE II
JAMA MANSFIELD
STEFANIE MEYER
PATRICIA MITCHELL
JENEE PIAZZA
HEATHE ROGERS
MARY SCHMIDT
TIFFANY SIMMONS
SARAH SWOYER
JAIM TRIPODO
DARIA BLISS
MEAGHANN BOLIN
LILLIAN CAMPOS
GENARITA CHIRIBOGA
JENNIFER CLARK
MICHELE CORDOVA
LAYSON CRAFT
STEPHANI CUDDIE
KANE CURTIS
THOMAS GOUGH
ASHLEY GRANT
KATHERINE GREENWELL
NICOLE GROESBECK
CHRISTOPHER HAGGERTY
JABEZ HARRIS
KATRINA HARRISON
JEFFERY HART
CHRISTIAN HERRERA
DEANNA IVES
JOSHUA JENKINS
CHAD JOHNSTAN
EBONI JONES
KENNETH KEYES
MAYLIN LEE
AKEILA LEWIS
DARIUS LEWIS
DOMENIC MAINELLI
BRANDI MARTIN
DONALD MCALLISTER
APRIL MCDONNELL
JEANETTE MIRAGLIA
JASON MITCHELL
JONATHAN MOORE
ROSA MORALES
DOUGLAS PARY
CARLY ROMERO
WENDI ROTHMANN
STEPHANIE SONNTAG
MICHAEL SOTO
MEAGHAN TOBIN
GINA ADEYEYE
COREY AHERN
ANAS ALDAHOUD
MATTHEW ALLAN
ROBIN ALLEN
MELISSA ALONSO
DENISE AMERICANOS
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ALISE BARTOLINI
JESSICA BASIN
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ANDY BAZIN-CHEVRY
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CURTIS BECKLES
JUSTIN BEDNARZ
MICHELLE BEIL
DANA BENNETT
MELISSA BIANCO
JAMES BLADE
RICHARD BLUE
DANIELLE BOCKUS
DENILAE BONDARI
JENNIFER BOOKER
STACY BOOTEN
REESHEMA BRADBERRY
DANIELLE BRETSCHNEIDER
KIMBERLY BREWER
JOHN BRISCOE
MARY BRODBECK
SHANEISE BROMELL
AMBER BROOKS-ROBINSON
ERIN BRUNT
MARY BULLARD
JORGE BURGOS
BRENDA BURNS
KRISTA BURROWS
ERICA BUTTS
TERESA CALANO
NICHOLAS CAMACHO
AMBER CAMILLERI
JUSTIN CANCHOLA
TIMOTHY CARTER
KELLY CHIDER
ROBIN CHO FOOK LUN
RYAN CLARK
JANICE COLLINS
EDWIN COLON
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FABIANA COMPAS
MELISSA COOK
AYANA COOPER
CHRISTINE COPPIN
STEPHANIE COPPIN
DANIEL COSENZO
DAWN CROFT
KRISTEN CULLINANE
ASHLEY CUMBEE
ROBERT DADEZ
STEPHANIE DANIKAS
TONGELA DAVIS
JESSICA DAVIS
JOSHUA DAVIS
AMANDA DAVIS
BENJAMIN DAWES
MARIA DE MAIO
DAVID DECARLO
MICHELLE DELCOURT
STEPHANIE DEPP
DANIELLE DIAMOND
AMY DIEL
ANTHONY DIRTH
MICHAEL DOCSTER
STACEY DONOHUE
REGINA DOUGHERTY
CHERYL DOYLE
BRIAN EBANKS
MOHAMAD EL-NAAMANI
GEORGE ESHESIMUA
REBA EVANS
VINCENT FALCIONE
ALEXANDRA FARMER
MICHAEL FARRANT
ANA FARRULLA-MORALES
CHRISTY FESTER
DUSTIN FETZ
DANIELLE FIUMANO
NATASHA FLOYD
ALISON FLYNN
KELSY FORRISTER
PENNY FREEMAN
KIMBERLY GARDNER
ERICA GARDNER
GREG GIARDINI
VANESSA GRAHAM
ELIZABETH GREGSON
DONNA GRICOSKI
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VALERIE HARRIDGE
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RYAN HARRIS
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WILLIAM HAYES
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RAYMOND JAGIELSKI
JASON JENKINS
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PATRICIA JOHNSON
TYRELL JOHNSON
DAVE JOSEPH
KENNETH KEITH
JOHN KELMER
ANN KENNY
RUBY KEPPEL
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CONCILIA MAVHURUME
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KEVIN MCELENY
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PHYLLIS MEYER
JONATHAN MEYER
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EDSON O'NEALE
LOIS OWENS
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KURT RICHARDSON
BRENDAN RILEY
LOUIS RITUCCI III
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KENRICK ROBERTS
ROXANNE RONGEY
SARAH ROONEY
FRANCINE ROSARIO
HEATHER ROSS
CHRISTIAN RUBIN DE CELIS
TYLER RUGER
LINDSAY SAGALA
SANDY SALDIVAR
LISA SALESSES
ROBERT SANDLIN
MARILYN SANTOS
BRIAN SCHMIDT
DENISE SCHOLZ
ERIC SCHULMAN
SCOTT SEIFERT
MATTHEW SENAY
ANTHONY SERRANO
TANISHA SESSION
TRAVIS SETTINERI
ABIGAIL SHAPIRO
BENJAMIN SHULMAN
SABRINA SILK
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MATTHEW SMITH
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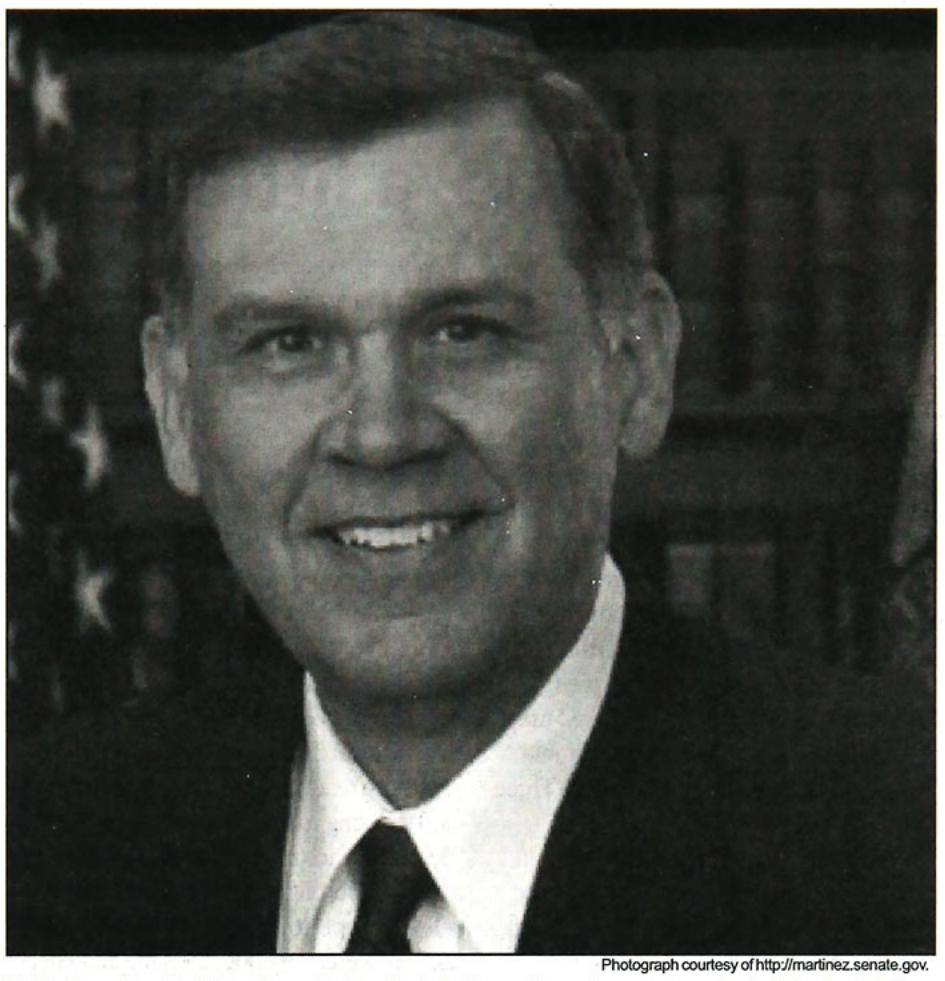
LORYNN YOUNG
JEFFREY YOUNG
MATTHEW ZAWASKI
JOSEPH ZUK

Martinez against early troop withdrawal, supports minimum wage increase



Photograph courtesy of http://martinez.senate.gov.
U.S. Senator Mel Martinez is the first Cuban-American ever elected to the U.S. Senate. He is currently working on U.S. Healthcare Reform through the Tax Equity and Affordability (TEA) Act and other legislation.

BY JOSHUA SMITH
Lions' Pride Online Editor

Mel Martinez, a Republican from Florida, is the first Cuban-American ever elected to the U.S. Senate. Following the 2006 mid-term election, he was appointed chairman of the Republican National Committee. With the thinly divided Senate of 51 Democrats and 49 Republicans wrestling with immigration reform, the war in Iraq, and other issues, Martinez is in a unique position to affect the course of our country. *The Lions' Pride* recently had the opportunity to interview the Senator on some of the most important issues of our time.

Lions' Pride: Senator Martinez, congratulations on your appointment last fall to the chairmanship of the Republican National Committee, and thank you for taking the time to answer a few questions for our readers. After the Democratic Party's gains in the 2006 mid-term elections, both the majority party and the president suggested that the time may be right for comprehensive immigration policy reform. Considering the opposition most Americans, especially Republicans, have expressed to amnesty for illegal aliens in this country, what do you believe is the right way forward on immigration reform?

U.S. Senator Mel Martinez: This year, it is my hope that Congress will address immigration reform. We need a temporary worker program that is truly temporary – one that allows individuals to fill labor shortages in the United States, work for a short period of time, and return home.

We also need a fair way to deal with the 12 million aliens who have entered our country illegally or overstayed their visas. It is in the United States' national security interest to learn the identity of these individuals. While the best way to do this is still being debated, continuing to simply look the other way is not a responsible option. Through our reform debate, America's history of welcoming immigrants to our shores must never be forgotten; it remains imperative that we continue to attract and include not only the best and brightest who want to work and live in the United States to make our country greater, but also those who are willing to work hard at the jobs that many Americans are unwilling to do. Finally, there must be charitable, humanitarian exceptions, so that we are not tearing apart families or using the law to treat people unjustly.

***LP:* Democrats in both houses have introduced resolution after resolution voicing their opposition to the war in Iraq. Do you believe the Democrats will be successful in their attempts to bring the war to a premature end, and what do you believe the ramifications of a precipitous U.S. withdrawal would be?**

MM: I do not believe members of Congress ought to substitute their judgments for the judgments of our generals in the field. The successful completion of this war will not be easy and should not be a partisan issue. Politics should not enter the debate. A premature withdrawal of American forces is a prescription for disaster.

That said, it is the Iraqis who must step up to secure their own country. American forces can and should assist them, but any lack of commitment on their part will not be tolerated by the American people as long as our troops are in harms way. Those who fight for our nation deserve nothing less than the full support of the American people and their elected leaders.

***LP*: House Democrats, along with several Republicans, passed a bill raising the Federal Minimum Wage to $7.25 per hour. Assuming the bill is passed by the Senate and signed by President Bush, what effect will the boost have on Florida workers and small businesses?**

MM: On February 1, 2007, the Senate amended H.R. 2 to raise the federal minimum wage from $5.15 to $7.25 over the next 2 years and to include more than $8 billion in tax relief provisions for those affected small businesses and the bill, with my support, passed by a vote of 94 to 3. Coupled with the minimum wage increase are provisions to protect small businesses, which employ half of the private sector workforce. I began my career as a minimum wage worker and strongly believe that minimum wage jobs are a stepping-stone to better paying jobs for many Americans. I am pleased that we are moving toward a minimum wage increase and I hope it will help many families in need.

***LP:* The College Student Relief Act, aimed at lowering interest rates for student loans, was passed with wide bipartisan support in the House of Representatives. What in your opinion can and should be done to help make college more affordable?**

The Deficit Reduction Act (S. 1932), which became law in February 2006, eliminated the interest rate formula for future federal student loans and set a fixed 6.8 percent for new borrowers. These changes will actually save new borrowers money and protect them from future interest rate increases. Traditionally, the interest rates for federal student loans have been adjusted on July 1 each year to reflect changes in the interest rate by the U.S. Treasury. During the last few years, our economy has become increasingly stronger, which, among many things, has resulted in an increase in interest rates.

As college costs increase, I recognize student aid is increasingly important in allowing all students the opportunity to pursue higher education. However, the proposal to lower the interest rates on future subsidized student loans would cost American taxpayers anywhere between $18 to $60 billion over five years and would do nothing to assist current borrowers. I believe that more prudent measures, such as increasing Pell grants and targeted assistance for those struggling to repay their loans, could better help to alleviate higher education costs. It is important to empower our nation's youth to achieve their educational dreams.

***LP:* What legislative agenda items will you personally be working on during the current session of Congress?**

MM: Some of my current legislation agenda consists of: The Tax Equity and Affordability (TEA) act. I introduced this legislation in Congress in the hopes of expanding health insurance opportunities to 4 million Floridians and 47 million Americans nationwide. This legislation will provide low-income families, and all families outside the employer-based health insurance system, a refundable tax credit. The TEA Act will ensure that those who cannot afford health insurance have the financial flexibility to buy health insurance.

This year, I re-introduced bipartisan legislation to implement a national hurricane research initiative designed to better research, predict and prepare for hurricanes. This comprehensive proposal was crafted from the recommendations presented by the National Science Foundation's new draft report entitled, Hurricane Warning: The Critical Need for a National Hurricane Research Initiative. The bill sets out specific goals for research, including predicting hurricane intensification, storm surge, rainfall, and inland flooding, improved observations, assessment of vulnerable infrastructure, interaction of hurricanes with engineered structures, improved computational ability, improved disaster response and recovery, and evacuation planning.

On January 18, 2007, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) published a proposed rule that would cut Medicaid reimbursement to Florida's hospitals. Florida was granted a Medicaid waiver last year that has enabled the state to refine our Medicaid program to make it more effective and efficient. This proposed rule would cost Florida's hospitals $4.6 billion in federal and state matching funds over five years. Upon finding this out, I introduced legislation (S.787) which would place a two-year moratorium on CMS' implementation of this proposed rule so that further study could take place to determine the extent of negative impact on states. This legislation would ensure that Florida's hospitals can continue providing services to the most vulnerable families seeking care.

Arts & Entertainment

A little music, a little life

BY ASHLEE MASULLO
Lions' Pride Staff Writer

Last week, fiddler Alan Jabbour, drew people from all over Pasco County into Selby Auditorium for his first ever performance at Saint Leo University. The seats were packed with people of all ages, well before the show even started.

Sitting in the front row, it was possible to see how quickly his fingers moved on the strings of his fiddle. He was calm, professional, and doing what he loved. Everyone stared in awe as he played tunes such as, "Rose Division," "West Virginia Gals," "Santa Anne's Retreat," and "Three Forks of Cheat."

Before each performance, he would give a small lecture about where the song originated from and what kind of impact it had had on his life. He would also talk about the numerous people he encountered on his road to success and mentors who had helped him along the way.

One person who had a major influence on his life and his music was Henry Reed. Almost every song he played during his performance came from him. It was obvious that Henry Reed was a big part of Alan Jabbour's life.

After he would perform certain songs, he would describe for the audience how to play them, what key to play them in, and how fiddling differs from the classic violin. He told the audience that different tuning creates a different sound, and it wasn't always true that violins were played in a standardized key. Everyone in the room could tell he was a professional just by the way he talked.

Behind each song was a bit of history. He told the audience of how music came to be in America and how diverse it is. After the show, people left feeling as if they actually learned something just by listening to him play. Education in the form of music, what more could anyone ask?

As a teacher, he was used to lecturing and standing in front of large crowds. Each audience member could tell he had done this sort of thing before. He inspired a lot of people to play, gave tips on playing, and answered any questions the audience had after the show.

His playing was admired throughout the performance. The stories about the music were almost as interesting as the songs themselves. The audience was highly entertained by his jokes and his goodhearted nature. He was truly a pleasure to see. His quiet demeanor was nothing compared to his fast-paced music and professionalism.

Alan Jabbour.com

Fiddler Alan Jabbour produces mass audience with his performance

The Fiddler tells all...

BY ASHLEE MASULLO
Lions' Pride Staff Writer

Q: Why did you start playing?

A: I started playing the classical violin at the age of seven in the school orchestra. I loved it. I played in the Jacksonville Symphony and received a scholarship for the University of Miami. I wasn't expecting to learn how to play the fiddle. I just collected fiddle tunes and had the "itch" for it, you might say. However, as I got older, I wanted to do more with literature. I stopped playing for a little while and now I'm back.

Q: What is the difference between a violin and a fiddle?

A: There is absolutely no difference whatsoever. The fiddle is just an informal way of saying violin. It actually comes from the Italian word, "violina," which basically means, "little fiddle."

Q: How long did it take you to learn new songs?

A: I learn by ear first. It's always easier. Once you learn the patterns of a song, it makes it much easier to play it.

Q: You were an English teacher before and have published numerous things. What kinds of things did you teach your students?

A: Well, I taught folklore and folk music at UCLA. I now teach fiddle classes at camps and throughout the year, as well.

Q: Was there another profession you were ever interested in and never got around to it or gave up on it?

A: No stage of my life was ever planned. I guess I never really taught as much at the universities as I wish I had.

Q: Did you ever think you would make it this far with your musical career?

A: Well, it wasn't planned. It just kind of evolved and grew. It kept coming back in certain parts of my life.

Q: It seems that Henry Reed had a lot of influence on you, as a mentor. What would you say to him right now, if he was here?

A: I can't do it exactly like you do it. But, I hope you're proud of me.

Q: What exactly was your inspiration for most of your music?

A: The musicians I met in my life.

Q: How do you feel about the awards you have received over the years?

A: I feel honored. But, the real reward is seeing the younger generations learn the tunes and play them.

Q: What are you hoping students, and teachers alike, will get from your music?

A: I hope they get the general idea that there's a relationship between art and life. It's a way of life, a way of looking at the world and understanding that.

Q: Any advice to students who want to publish their writing or "make it big" with their music?

A: Don't think about yourself. Think about the art and the drive. You have to be driven to succeed. You have to love what you do. Just trust your instincts and let it lead you to wherever it may take you.

A beam of *Moonlight* hits Saint Leo

BY ASHLEE MASULLO
Lions' Pride Online Editor

On April 19, 2007, the show *Moonlight* opened in Selby Auditorium at Saint Leo University. The production marked the last for Dr. Charles Grimes at Saint Leo and was one of the most emotional and realistic portrayals of human emotion in a performance ever seen at the school.

Moonlight, a one act written by Harold Pinter, displayed the relationship of a family separated over time. The mother, Bel (Sidney Carlan), and father, Andy (Grimes), lead a disordered marriage that only appears to get worse as Andy dies. The sons, Jake (Andrew Morrow) and Fred (Josh Porthouse), go on to become men of the state, who play confusing and somewhat nonsensical mind games with each other. And, lastly, the daughter, Bridget (Emily Belvo), dies in an unmentioned way and is present throughout the entire play. She never really moves from the center of the stage and speaks in a very cryptic manner, much like her brothers, however, less political.

This one act is centered on the dying father, a brutal, harsh, and extremely lewd man with a pessimistic and overly sexual attitude on just about everything. His anger and outrageous behavior makes people impossible to be around him, especially his wife. His wife, Bel, is a calm and rational woman, compared to Andy, and is very tolerant of his ways even though she disapproves of them. She is very upset that her sons, caught up in their baffling games, do not wish to come home and be with their dying father. It is unclear as to why.

An underlying note in the play is that both the husband and wife had cheated on each other in the past with the same woman. The woman, Marie (Chelsea Shoemaker), is vivacious and very seductive. She thinks of herself most of the time and pays little attention to her husband, Ralph (Nick Nunes), and more on everybody else. It is obvious she has played an integral part in the way Andy and Bel treat each other. Andy bluntly recalls having sex with Marie during the beginning of he and his wife's relationship, admitting to having Marie in the married couples own bed.

Photograph by Ashlee Masullo

Chelsea Shoemaker (Marie) is the blonde in black.

Bridget, the dead daughter, sees her dying father from a far off place. She is a witness to her fathers' death and is only alive during one scene of the production. This scene takes place in what one would assume to be the living room, with her brothers arguing over who will go to a concert. Bridget just wants to be left alone to read a book and is frustrated with the arguing. Fred wants to go with Jake to the gig and doesn't want to be left alone with his sister. In the end, only Jake goes to the concert, leaving Fred and Bridget to deal with their troubles by themselves.

With this overwhelming and perplexing plot line, the audience is left wondering what exactly has happened after the show ends. A lot of the story remains unclear and left unsaid. It is definitely something that someone might have to see more than once in order to fully understand.

As for the casting, Grimes couldn't have picked a better cast. The show couldn't have gone better if anyone else had played Andy. His rendering of the dying man is absolutely amazing, leaving the audience feeling awkward and distressed after seeing such an act. It was extremely moving and took a lot from the actor to express such deep and significant emotions. It is very hard to fake death, yet Grimes did it so well. It left a lasting impression on the audience, and the school as his last performance.

Sidney Carlan, who played Bel, was just fantastic. Her calm demeanor and tolerance for Andy's behavior is astonishing. Carlan perfected it, with a hidden anger and even regret towards Andy. Behind the scenes, she's nothing like the wife. Her lighthearted humor and smile aren't seen in the show.

The same goes for Emily Belvo. Her character is quiet, soft spoken, and introverted at times, giving herself the appearance of an angel or ghost. Her intensity and emotion that were portrayed give away nothing of who she really is – an outgoing, kind, and funny individual.

Josh Porthouse and Andrew Morrow were great at playing the two brothers. They were very natural and conversational during their dialogues, giving the audience the impression that they were just coming up with what they were saying on the spot. Porthouse was the younger and lighter of two, with Morrow taking up the more serious and poetic role. Morrows' emotions lay truly hidden during the show until the end, where he throws a phone against the wall in anger, shocking the audience.

Photograph by Ashlee Masullo

Grimes is, of course, the older man on the bed, the one who looks sickly. Nick Nunes (Ralph) is the man in the suit.

Photograph by Ashlee Masullo

Chelsea Shoemaker and Nick Nunes both depict their characters very well. It was especially good for Nunes, who had to fill in for someone two days before the show opened. It was a hard task, but he was able to pull it off. Shoemaker's monologue points out key parts of Andy and Bels' background, including the affair.

It was extremely sad for the students who performed in the numerous productions at Saint Leo University and took classes with Grimes to hear of him leaving. A thank you note was present on the back of every *Moonlight* program, thanking him and wishing him luck next year.

"He, literally, went above and beyond to help me when I first go here. It was an honor to work alongside him. He had faith in my aspirations and was a mentor to me. I'm very sad to see him go," Carlan, a senior, said about the subject.

"I auditioned my first year here, 15 minutes after I heard about it, and he chose me right off the bat. I came all the way from Saudi Arabia to be here, and I love it here. He's very laid back and doesn't set anything. He was a great teacher," stated Emily Belvo, a sophomore.

The production of *Moonlight* was a perfect end to this year, giving everyone a chance to witness true acting at its best.

Photograph By: Simone Williams

Band members Ty and Trey of "The Icarus Account" played for Saint Leo on Friday, April 20. They were just one of three performers for "Music in the Bowl." Although it was a cold and windy night, there was a healthy turnout for the acoustic set. Other performers included Preson and vocalist Sarah Hatcher, a sophomore at Saint Leo.

Music festival brings culture to Sunshine State

BY BRANDY SCAGLIONE
Lions' Pride Staff Writer

Less Than Jake myspace.com/lessthanjake

Imagine a tour such as Warped Tour with a popular line-up of almost 50 bands, 9 stages, and thousands of fans. Now, multiply it times 10!

Once a year in Orlando, a musical event occurs that outdoes Warped Tour, Blues Festival, Jazz Festival and any other type of one-day concert students can think of. The Florida Music Festival takes place from May 16-20 and will have 15 stages with 250 bands, ranging from alternative, heavy, pop, country, hip hop, and acoustic music. Independent films and music inspired art will also be available.

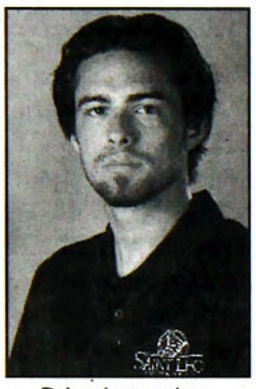
During the day, a participant can walk the annual Rock Walk and see various kinds of art being displayed. Around noon, pick a seat and watch some of the nation's most well thought up independent films. At night, most of the fun happens with live bands playing in the various venues surrounding downtown Orlando. Most of the venues are 18 and older, but some venues may change to over 21 if the venue becomes overcrowded. All of these venues are in walking distance to one another, and all students need to access every venue is a wristband bought previously that day.

The wristband means no tickets to fumble for and one price for either one or all four days of the festival. The price for a one-day admittance wristband is just $10 or get the entire 3 days and nights of the festival for $25. Either way, these wristbands are a deal to be able to see bands as big as Less Than Jake, Early November, Academy Is, Third Eye Blind, Buckcherry, Everclear, and Lit, who have played this festival in the past. For more information about the Florida Music Festival, visit their site online at www.floridamusicfestival.com or look them up on Myspace.com.

Senior athletes sa

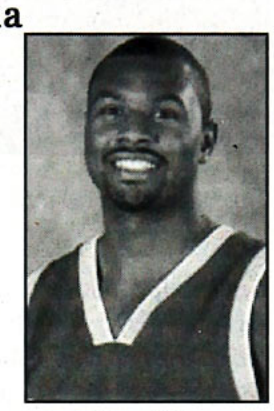
"It was the greatest experience I can have. With this team I learned to be a man and work through all thngs given to me good and bad in life."

George Eshuima



Brian Laverdure
Soccer

Richard Harris
Lacrosse



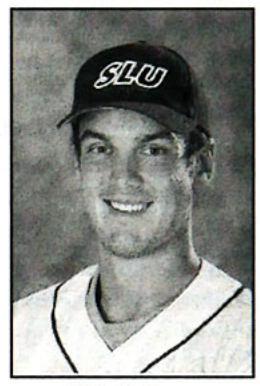
Richard Blue
Basketball

Christina VanTassel
Softball

Mohamad El Naamanni
Tennis

Chemeka Amos
Basketball

Jorge Burgos
Baseball

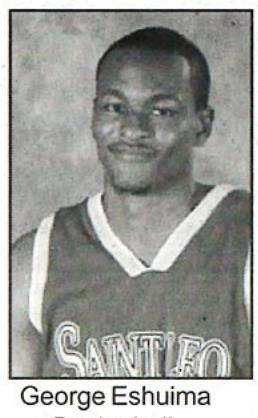


Eric Spicer
Baseball

"To play college baseball is a dream to many up and coming athletes, and is something I can say I was a part of and will treasure all my life."

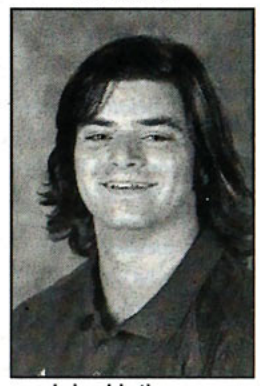
Jorge Burgos

Marina Arkhipova
Volleyball



George Eshuima
Basketball

Tony Dirth
Cross Country



John Hathaway
Lacrosse

Matt Prowent
Baseball

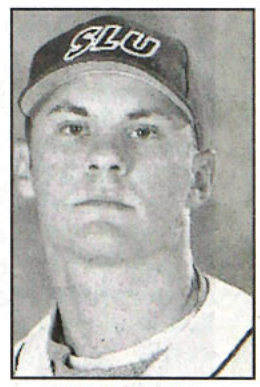
"Cross Country has been a great experience for me. In my four years I have been able to see both myself and others improve physically and mentally. My teammates, coaches, and I have formed lasting relationships. I consider myself lucky for all I have gained from running Cross Country at Saint Leo University."

Tony Dirth

Jonelle Nieb
Basketball

Ryo Tsuda
Soccer

Tommy Polston
Soccer



Matt Smith
Baseball

"I feel that in my career here I played in the best conference in Division 2 soccer in America. I've played against kids that have gone pro and had two try outs with pro teams that unfortunatley didn't work out. But I know that from playing here and going through all the problems I went through it made me a great player."

Brandon Jones

Brandon Jones
Soccer

Ashley Tyler
Cross Country

Peter Martinez
Baseball

"It was an experience that I will never forget, li
would do all over again in a h

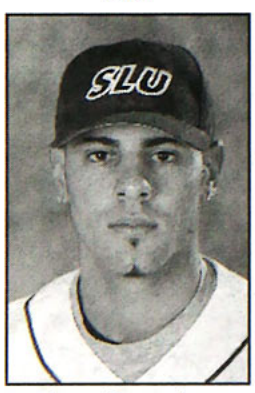
ıy their good-byes

Corey Ahern
Soccer

Alex Famer
Volleyball

Alison Flynn
Softball

Jacob Halligan
Golf


Jerry Gonzalez
Baseball

Sean Vanguilder
Baseball

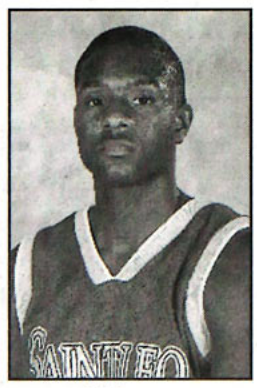
e life it has its' ups and downs, but is something I
rtbeat" **Sean Vanguilder**

"Inside the chalk lines, it's about the game and your team, not about you."
Halley Mallory

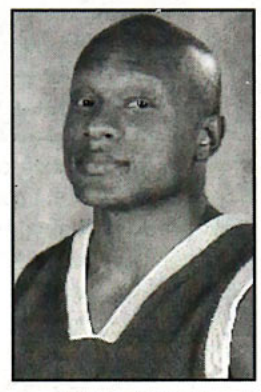
Hayley Mallory
Softball

Nicole Groesbeck
Volleyball

Erin Brunt
Volleyball


JJ Turner
Basketball

Kane Curtis
Swimming


Alleo Frazier
Basketball

Maria DeMaio
Soccer

"I will never forget my 4 years at Saint Leo, but being part of the volleyball team every year was an unbelievable experience! I have had the time of my life with the girls, and will never forget my years on the Saint Leo volleyball team!"
Nicole Groesbeck

Casie Poyssick
Soccer

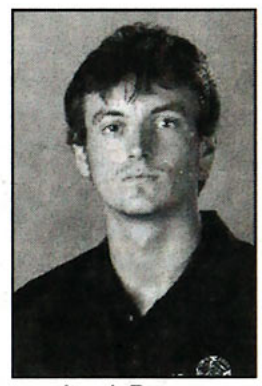
"My four years on the volleyball team were a very memorable expierence. I came away after four years learning many things that will help me in my future. I grew very close with all the girls on the team and wish them all the luck in the world."
Erin Oberlin

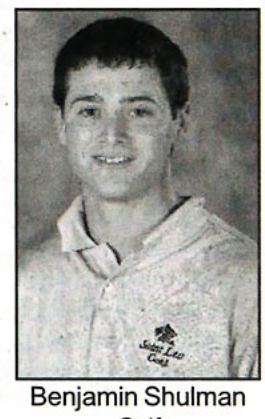
Erin Oberlin
Volleyball

Heather Young
Cross Country

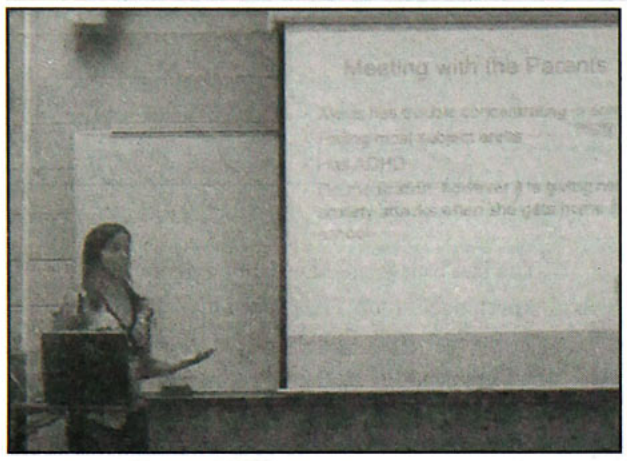
"I think running cross country mirrors the college experience. During a race you hate cross country, you're tired, you're sore, you can't breathe, but once you cross that finish line you forgot all the hardship and you know it was all worth it. The same goes for college...you work so hard for 4 years and you're tired and you're overscheduled, but once you cross that stage and receive your diploma you know it was all worth it!"
Heather Young

"My four years at Saint Leo have been a major learning experience for me. I have seen myself develop, along with my teammatea as both players and individuals. In four years we have been able to move Saint Leo up over 50 spots in the national rankings, and this last fall we won our first tournament ever as a university, setting scoring records along the way. The groundwork has been laid for a successful program for the future. With our returning players, a couple good recruits, and a coach that knows the game, the sky is the limit for this team."
Jacob Halligan

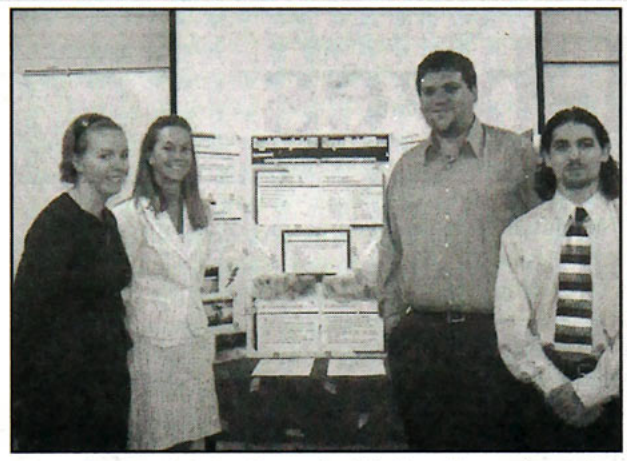

Asmir Pervan
Soccer


Benjamin Shulman
Golf

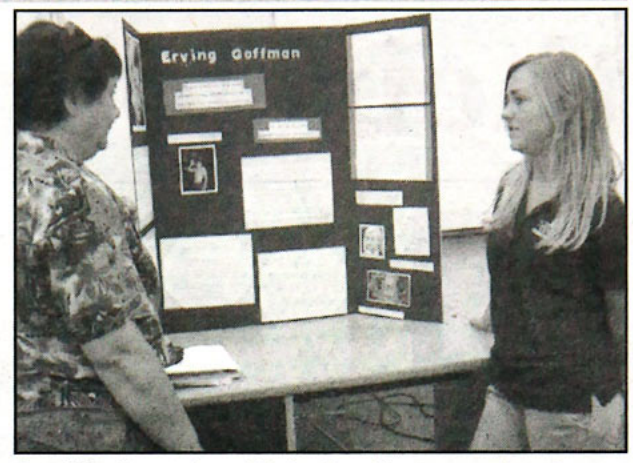
Brian Schmidt
Golf



Elizabeth Gregson presents "Informal Reading Inventory Analysis and Implementing Technology."



Adam Banko, Marky Beverlin, Mallory Rausch, and Ashely Cook present their Sport Project display board in Risk Management.



Sarah Folsom gives Sister Caroline an explanation on her "Erving Goffman's Frame Analysis and Male Gender Role Socialization in the College Dormitory Setting" project.

Stephanie Coppin speaks about her Senior Seminar Research Paper on Feminism.

"Excellence is doing something common in an uncommon way."

- Albert Vermeire, Senior Seminar: Research Papers

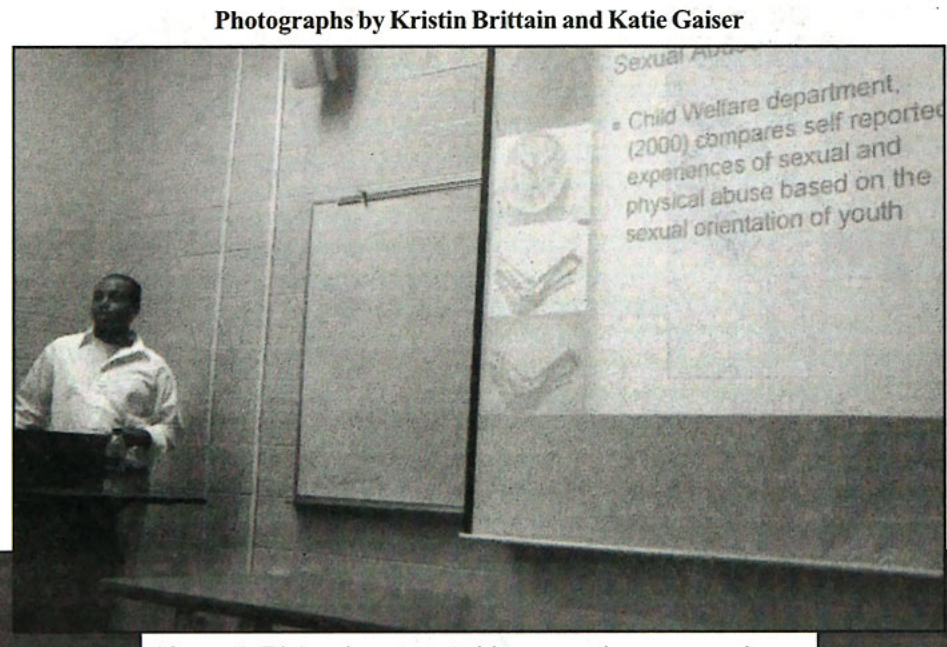
Maria DeMaio presents "Walk with Me: A Gaelic Children's Story."

Lions Wow The Masses Academic Excellence Day

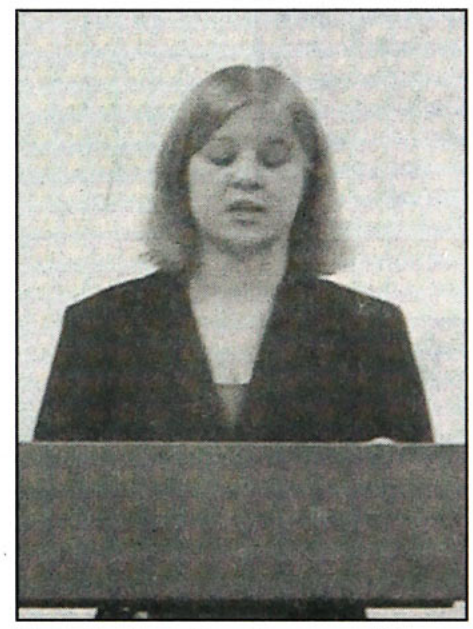
April 19, 2007

Photographs by Kristin Brittain and Katie Gaiser

Carly Romero presents "Truffles: An Underground Delicacy."



Kenneth Richards presents his research on gay and lesbian students in a college environment.



Doris Raab reads a discernment from Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice.*

Sarah Holz sings a tune from the musical, "Anything goes."

Sarah and Amanda Tatko play a beautiful duet with their violins.

Jennifer Higgins presents her "Saint Leo University-Criminal Justice Field Placement Manual."

Leonard Competello wales on his guitar.

Andrea Cameron sings his heart out.